

IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing an immune response in a fish against one or more
2 pathogens which comprises:

3 transforming a bacterium ~~with a eukaryotic expression vector comprising DNA of interest~~
4 ~~encoding at least one protein antigen for each of the pathogens consisting of a live, attenuated strain of~~
5 *V. anguillarum* which comprises a *mugA* gene comprising nucleotides 1218-2610 of SEQ ID NO: 5,
6 the strain having a mutation located within nucleotides 1218-2610 of SEQ ID NO: 5 that renders the
7 strain incapable of expressing a functional *mugA* protein, with a plasmid comprising DNA of interest
8 encoding at least one protein antigen for each of the pathogens; and;

9 ~~killing the bacterium;~~

10 immersing the fish in a solution comprised of the ~~transformed-killed bacterium to effect the~~
11 ~~expression of the protein antigen by the fish to induce an immune response in the fish, the method~~
12 characterized in that the protein antigen is produced by the fish.

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the fish is selected from the
2 group of finfish.

1 3-4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[4]] 1 wherein the plasmid comprises a
2 fish promoter of fish origin, a polyadenylation signal of fish origin and a kanamycin resistance cassette.

1 6. (Canceled)

1 7. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing an immune response in a fish against one or more pathogens
2 which comprises:

3 immersing the fish in a solution comprised of a live, attenuated strain of *V. anguillarum*, the
4 strain characterized in that it is incapable of expressing a functional *mugA* protein, the strain having
5 incorporated therein a plasmid comprising:

6 DNA of interest encoding at least one protein antigen for each of the pathogens, the method
7 characterized in that the protein antigen is produced by the fish.

1 8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 7 wherein the fish is selected from the group of
2 finfish.

1 9-15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[15]] 5 wherein the polyadenylation
2 signal is wolfish AFP poly A.

1 17. (Canceled)